

## Type A: From “Cinderella”

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Seize opportunity while it lasts. One spring the king wanted to find a wife for his son so he invited all of the beautiful girls in the kingdom to attend a three-day celebration. Cinderella asked her stepmother if she could go, but her stepmother told her that she was dirty, did not have a dress, and could not dance. After she begged to go, the stepmother dumped a bowl of lentils in a pile of ashes and said that she could go if all the lentils were cleaned in one hour. When Cinderella finished the task, her stepmother repeated that Cinderella could not go to the celebration.

Everyone agrees that Cinderella is invited to the celebration, but some believe that Cinderella should have gone to the celebration and some believe that she should not have gone to the celebration. Cinderella should have gone to the celebration for three reasons: She accepted the invitation, received permission, and suffered abandonment.

The first reason Cinderella should have gone to the celebration is that she accepted the invitation. Cinderella is as beautiful as a starry night. The king had invited all the beautiful girls in the kingdom to the palace for a three-day marriage celebration for his son. Cinderella hoped to dance at the celebration, but the prince desired to marry a young maid. She could *meet* the prince, *seek* her freedom, and *leave* her home.

The second reason Cinderella should have gone to the celebration is that she received permission. After she asked, her stepmother promised to permit Cinderella to attend the celebration if she picked all the lentils out of the ashes within an hour. After Cinderella cleaned all the lentils with the help of the birds, her stepmother changed her mind as suddenly as a winding river. However, another bird helped Cinderella when it tossed down a dress out of the hazel tree for the celebration.

The third reason Cinderella should have gone to the celebration is that she suffered abandonment. Cinderella lived with her father, stepmother, and stepsisters. Her new family *tortured* her, but she *served* them without *further* complaint. They mocked the meek Cinderella and maliciously mistreated her. Cinderella’s father is a stag, abandoning his offspring to the care of the herd.

Some argue that Cinderella should not have gone to the celebration. She needs to follow instructions. Her stepmother told her to stay home, and her real mother instructed her to be good. Cinderella must obey her parents. However, Cinderella was unfairly prohibited from attending the celebration by her stepmother, who despised her. Her stepmother was a cat toying with Cinderella by keeping her home for no just reason.

Others argue that Cinderella was not ready to go to the celebration. She did not have a dress and she did not know how to dance. Also, Cinderella did not clean the lentils herself. The birds helped her by cleaning all of the lentils. Even though Cinderella was not ready to attend the celebration, she received help from the birds who lived in the tree at her mother’s grave. After receiving their help, Cinderella was ready to attend the celebration.

Neither the need to follow instructions nor Cinderella's unpreparedness for attending the celebration provides sufficient reason for prohibiting Cinderella from going to the celebration.

Cinderella should have gone to the celebration because she accepted the invitation, received permission, and suffered abandonment. By going to the celebration, Cinderella meets the prince who falls in love with her and wants to make her his wife.

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## Type B: From *The Wind in the Willows*

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Something up above was calling him imperiously, and he made for the steep little tunnel." Now that winter had ended, spring was moving through the air above and below the ground. Mole woke up one morning and began cleaning his home. As he cleaned, he felt something carelessly calling him to leave what he was doing and climb up out of his hole.

Everyone agrees that a home provides comfort and protection, but some believe that Mole should have left his home and some believe that he should not have left his home. Mole should have left his safe, comfortable, and peaceful home for three reasons: He wanted to enjoy the new spring, to meet new friends, and to experience new adventures.

The first reason Mole should have left his safe, comfortable, and peaceful home is that he wanted to enjoy the new spring. While he was cleaning the house, Mole could sense something calling him. He hated a dirty home, but loved fresh air. Spring is like a newborn child. Mole wanted to climb up out of his home to enjoy the spring. Once out of his hole, he could experience the world above ground.

The second reason Mole should have left his safe, comfortable, and peaceful home is that he wanted to meet new friends. At home, Mole lounged, lulled, and lived alone. The first new friend Mole *visited*, Ratty, *lived* on and *in* and near the *river*. Afterwards, Mole met Badger, who lived in the Wild Wood. Good friends are a supportive bulwark that protects against many dangers.

The third reason Mole should have left his safe, comfortable, and peaceful home is that he wanted to experience new adventures. Mole had never seen any home as nice as Toad Hall, where he ate lunch with Toad and Ratty. After lunch, Toad persuaded Mole to go on a road trip, where an automobile like a strong wind ran them off the road, into a ditch, and wrecked their cart. Mole also helped Toad save his home from the Weasels who invaded Toad Hall while Toad served time in jail.

Some argue that Mole should not have left his home. The world above ground contained too many dangers. After leaving home, Mole fell out of Ratty's boat into the river. Later, he wandered into the Wild Wood losing his way. Mole also risked losing his home to someone else who might have taken it. The possibility of danger does not make danger certain. Because something might happen does not mean that it will happen.

Others argue that Mole lacked patience. He threw down his brush before he finished cleaning his home. Mole lived safely and comfortably in his home free from any danger. The spring air distracted Mole from the security of his home. However, Mole's impatience is not a reason to stay home. It is a favorable wind driving Mole to leave his home for fresh air and a change.

Neither the possibility of danger nor Mole's impatience provides sufficient reason for Mole to have stayed home.

Mole should have left his safe, comfortable, and peaceful home because he wanted to enjoy the new spring, to meet new friends, and to experience new adventures. By leaving home, Mole learned how to make new friends whom he cared about and whom he could lift *up* out of a *rough* spot when they *stumbled* into *trouble*.

## Type C: From *Julius Caesar*

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What kind of man publicly celebrates his friend's life, but secretly plots his death? Having completed his military campaigns with success, Caesar makes a bold move by returning to Rome and bringing his army with him. While Roman officials fear the possible outcome of Caesar's return, the people have crowded the streets to celebrate his recent arrival. Meanwhile, Cassius has been plotting with other senators to assassinate Caesar before he is crowned emperor. He needs to persuade one other senator, Brutus, to join their conspiracy. Cassius first unveils the senators' plan to Brutus in the streets during Caesar's grand entry. Though at first not favorable to the plan, Brutus is eventually won over by Cassius' clever counsel.

Every Roman agrees that *Caesar* is an important and *fearless leader*, but some believe that Brutus should not have stabbed Caesar and some believe that he should have stabbed Caesar. Brutus should not have stabbed Caesar for three reasons: Brutus served with fidelity, Caesar grew in popularity, and the conspirators acted in secret.

The first reason Brutus should not have stabbed Caesar is that Brutus served with fidelity. A good friend is as reliable as the sunrise. Caesar trusted Brutus with his life believing that with a friend such as Brutus there would never be an attempt to kill him. Not only did Caesar trust Brutus, but the Roman people also looked to Brutus as a respected and trustworthy leader of Rome.

The second reason Brutus should not have stabbed Caesar is that Caesar grew in popularity. Caesar re-

turned to his flock in Rome as a hero. The Romans loved and supported Caesar. In fact, they loved him so much that they desired to crown Caesar emperor. Yet, Caesar denied the crown three times for everyone to see.

The third reason Brutus should not have stabbed Caesar is that the conspirators acted in secret. Only some of the senators joined the plot to assassinate Caesar. Many of the senators were startled squirrels knowing nothing of the plot and played no part in carrying out this murderous act. Such secrecy avoided the possibility of conflict, of rejection, and of dismissal from opposing senators.

Some have argued that Brutus should have stabbed Caesar. Caesar was as sly as a fox. The ambitious *head led his steady army into the city, which not only threatened a free Rome, but sped towards the first steps of tyranny.* However, Caesar's lust for power required political action, not military. Brutus, not Caesar, turned the Senate floor into a battlefield.

Others argued that Brutus' love for Rome was greater than his love for Caesar. Caesar loved Rome no less than Brutus. The notion that Caesar threatened the liberty of Rome lacked sufficient evidence and emerged more from the irrational fears of a few men than the temperate love of the multitude.

Neither the argument that Caesar intended to use his military strength to enslave Rome nor the argument that Brutus acted out of a greater love than Caesar for the good of Rome provides sufficient reason for assassinating a man loved by those whom he served to protect.

Brutus should not have stabbed Caesar because Brutus served with fidelity, Caesar grew in popularity, and the conspirators acted in secret. The riotous rage of the Roman citizens sparked by Caesar's death will turn upon the murderous ban of guilty senators.